

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01

IO-10 SAM-01 /070 W

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R 031639Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1190

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, FW, GW

SUBJECT: BRANDT VISIT TO GREECE

SUMMARY: THE GREEKS ASKED SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN BRANDT TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE TURKS TO HELP ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS AND TO HELP SECURE GERMAN SUPPORT FOR FULL GREEK MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE EC. CARAMANLIS AGREED WITH BRANDT THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO NATO AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GREEKS TO AGAIN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSING VISIT OF SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT TO ATHENS, JUNE 20-24, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT BRANDT WAS VERY CAREFUL TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPHASIZE THAT HE WAS A GUEST OF THE GREEK

GOVERNMENT AND NOT OF THE OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, IT WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO CLARIFY HIS ROLE AS GUEST AND TO AVOID BEING USED BY THE OPPOSITION PARTIES OWING TO THE FACT THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE SPD AND THE GREEK SOCIALISTS DURING THE DAYS OF THE JUNTA AND BECAUSE MAVROS WHEN HE WAS STILL FOREIGN MINISTER, HAD INVITED BRANDT TO VISIT GREECE.

2. BRANDT'S HOSTS APPEALED TO HIM TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH THE TURKS WITH THE GOAL OF INFLUENCING THEM TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN SETTLING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THEY SAID THAT THE NEXT MOVE WAS UP TO THE TURKS, WHO THEY BELIEVED HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN CHANGING THE STATUS QUO. BUT THE GREEKS FAILED TO INDICATE EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANTED OR WHAT THEY MIGHT DO TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT (OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE GERMANS ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS LITTLE THE GREEKS COULD DO AT THIS POINT SINCE THE TURKS HELD THE ADVANTAGES). CARAMANLIS BELIEVED THAT GREEK PUBLIC OPINION WOULD ACCEPT AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS WITH A FEDERATION OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH COMMUNITIES, BUT HE TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE GREEK PARLIAMENT NEED NOT APPROVE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT SINCE IT WAS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. CARAMANLIS SAID THAT MAKARIOS IS NO LONGER A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS AND CAN BE BY-PASSED. BRANDT TOOK THE POSITION THAT AID TO GREEK-CYPRIOT REFUGEES WAS A MATTER FOR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND NOT FOR THE SPD.

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3. THE GREEKS ASKED BRANDT AND THE SPD TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS TO BECOME FULL MEMBERS IN THE EC, ARGUING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 10860

THAT IN ADDITION TO BRINGING ECONOMIC BENEFITS, A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GREECE AND EUROPE, WOULD STRENGTHEN THE FORCES OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND PROVIDE GREATER MILITARY SECURITY FOR THE GREEKS. BRANDT SAID THAT HIS PARTY SUPPORTED GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC IN PRINCIPLE, BUT IT WAS RELUCTANT TO BRING THE GREEK-TURKISH CONFLICT INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. CARAMANLIS AGREED WITH BRANDT THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO NATO AND SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN GREEKS WOULD AGAIN PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE ALLIANCE.

5. THE GERMANS FOUND THAT CARAMANLIS HAS A VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGH OPINION OF HIS INFLUENCE AND ABILITY. CARAMANLIS SAID THAT IF HE WERE PERSONALLY RUNNING FOR ELECTION HE WOULD RECEIVE 80 PER CENT OF VOTES CAST BUT IF HE WERE RUNNING AS A MEMBER OF HIS PARTY, HE WOULD RECEIVE FAR FEWER VOTES. HE ALSO SAID THAT HAD HE PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE RETURN OF KING CONSTANTINE, A MAJORITY OF GREEKS WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR THE KING, AND HAD HE OPPOSED RETENTION OF THE MONARCHY, THE KING WOULD HAVE RECEIVED FAR FEWER VOTES THAN HE DID.

6. OUR SOURCE SAID THE GERMANS ENJOY A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GREEKS TODAY BECAUSE OF THEIR PAST OPPOSITION TO THE MILITARY JUNTA. BOTH GREEKS AND GERMANS WITH ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN GREECE WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE PRO-DEMOCRATIC DEUTSCHE WELLE DURING DAYS OF THE JUNTA ARE NOW EXPRESSING THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE ANTI-JUNTA ATTITUDE OF THE GERMANS IN THE PAST.

HILLENBRAND

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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